United Nations A/59/598

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 105
Human rights questions

Note verbale dated 8 December 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, in its capacity as current Chair of the Convening Group of the Community of Democracies, presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to request that the present letter and the attached statement (see annex), issued on the occasion of Human Rights Day, be circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly under item 105, entitled "Human rights questions".

04-63932 (E) 091204

Annex to the note verbale dated 8 December 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement for Human Rights Day of the Convening Group of the Community of Democracies

The Convening Group of the Community of Democracies joins in the celebration of Human Rights Day on 10 December 2004. The principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are the cornerstone of a peaceful, secure and prosperous world. These values, which constitute a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, are central to democratic governance and are best protected by Governments that are fully committed to the rule of law.

The Community of Democracies recognizes the fundamental importance of all human rights and the reinforcing mutual effects of and interdependence among peace, development, democracy and human rights. In both the Warsaw Declaration and the 2002 Seoul Plan of Action, Community of Democracies countries have committed themselves to strengthening the development of democratic institutions throughout the world and to promoting and protecting all human rights, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On Human Rights Day, these Community of Democracies nations commend all nations that have worked hard to build democracies and to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms. They recommit themselves to the development of democracy domestically and the promotion of democracy regionally and globally in order to adhere to the principles laid down in that important Declaration.